

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 237133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF SEVEN MEETING SEPTEMBER 22

CHAIRMAN SEVILLA SACASA (NICARAGUA) CALLED MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF SEVEN SEPTEMBER 22 TO HEAR REPORT FROM COLONEL PADILLA (VENEZUELA), RETIRING CHIEF OF OAS OBSERVER MISSION ON SALVADOR/HONDURAS BORDER. ACCORDING TO PADILLA, SINCE MUTUAL PULLBACK OF FORCES FROM FOUR BORDER ZONES, TENSION HAS DIMINISHED MARKEDLY BUT DANGER OF NEW OUTBREAK REQUIRES CONTINUING PRESENCE OF OAS OBSERVERS PENDING RESOLUTION OF BASIC CAUSES OF DISPUTE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE IMPLEMENTATION OF WASHINGTON AGREEMENT WILL BRING END TO POTENTIAL CONFLICT. BOTH MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS, UNDER DIRECTION OF HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR CHIEFS OF STAFF, HAVE COOPERATED FULLY WITH OAS OBSERVER MISSION IN PREVENTING INCIDENTS AND SITUATION IS QTE IN

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GENERAL, NORMAL UNQTE DESPITE FACT TWO ARMIES STILL ON

PRE-WAR ALERT. PADILLA STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF HELICOPTERS IN MAINTAINING BORDER SURVEILLANCE. (FYI: DOD HAS TASKING MEMO FROM STATE RE EARLY DESPATCH OF TWO MORE HELICOPTERS). AFTER INITIAL DELAY BY ONE PARTY (HONDURAS), PADILLA SAID BOTH SIDES NOW DESTROYING NETWORKS OF TRENCHES IN DISPUTED BORDER ZONES AND REMOVING WAR SUPPLIES AS WELL AS TROOPS ACCORDING TO STIPULATIONS OF MANAGUA AGREEMENT. HE CONCLUDED PRESENTATION BY INVITING COMMITTEE OF SEVEN AMBASSADORS TO VISIT HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR AND SEE OAS OBSERVER TEAM IN ACTION FULFILLING ORGANIZATION'S PEACEKEEPING MISSION. KISSINGER

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